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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of listing of claims, and listing of claims in the application.*

**Listing of Claims**

1.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a robust carbon monolith comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a colloidal solution comprising a carbon monolith precursor having a porosity-generating fugitive phase dispersed therein, said fugitive phase comprising a low-charring polymer and microparticles;
- b. carbonizing said carbon monolith precursor to form a carbon monolith: and
- c. removing said fugitive phase from said carbon monolith to form a robust, porous carbon monolith characterized by a skeleton size of at least 100 nm, and a hierarchical pore structure having macropores and mesopores, wherein removal of the low-charring polymer provides the mesopores.

26. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein said carbon monolith precursor further comprises at least one carbonizable polymer.

27. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein said porosity-generating fugitive further comprises a material that is soluble in a solvent that does not harm said porous carbon monolith.

28. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein said porosity-generating fugitive further comprises silica.

29. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25 further comprising, after said removing step, an additional step of graphitizing said porous carbon monolith.

30. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein said carbon monolith is characterized by a skeleton size of 100 nm to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

31. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 30 wherein said carbon monolith is characterized by a skeleton size of 200 nm to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

32. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31 wherein said carbon monolith is characterized by a skeleton size of 400 nm to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

33. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25 wherein said macropores are of a size range of 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

34. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 33 wherein said macropores are of a size range of 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

35. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 34 wherein said macropores are of a size range of 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

36.-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 25 37 wherein said mesopores are of a size range of 5 nm to 30 nm.

39. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a robust carbon monolith comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a colloidal solution comprising a carbon monolith precursor having a particulate porosity-generating fugitive phase dispersed therein, said fugitive phase comprising mesoparticles and microparticles; and
- b. heating said carbon monolith precursor to carbonize said carbon monolith precursor, and to remove said fugitive phase from said carbon monolith, to form a robust, porous carbon monolith characterized by a skeleton size of at least 100 nm, wherein removal of said fugitive phase comprising mesoparticles and microparticles provides a hierarchical pore structure having macropores and mesopores.

40. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein said carbon monolith precursor further comprises at least one carbonizable polymer.

41. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein said porosity-generating fugitive phase further comprises a material that is thermally removable at a temperature that does not decompose said porous carbon monolith.

42. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein said porosity-generating fugitive phase further comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of surfactants and low-charring polymers.

43. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39 further comprising, after said removing step, an additional step of graphitizing said porous carbon monolith.

44. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein said carbon monolith is characterized by a skeleton size of 100 nm to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

45. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 44 wherein said carbon monolith is characterized by a skeleton size of 200 nm to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

46. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 45 wherein said carbon monolith is characterized by a skeleton size of 400 nm to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

47. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein said macropores are of a size range of 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

48. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 47 wherein said macropores are of a size range of 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

49. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 48 wherein said macropores are of a size range of 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

50. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39 wherein said mesopores are of a size range of 18  $\text{\AA}$  to 50 nm.

51. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 50 wherein said mesopores are of a size range of 0.5 nm to 40 nm.

52. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 51 wherein said mesopores are of a size range of 5 nm to 30 nm.

53.-81. (Canceled)